

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 552

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Commissioner Susan Whitaker
on being named 2013 State Tourism Director of
the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should applaud those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as professionals and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Susan Whitaker, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development, was recently named the 2013 State Tourism Director of the Year by the U.S. Travel Association's National Council of State Tourism Directors; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Whitaker was appointed Commissioner of Tourist Development in 2003 by Governor Phil Bredesen and was reappointed in 2011 by Governor Bill Haslam; and

WHEREAS, with the aid of Susan Whitaker's expertise, Tennessee has an award winning tourism website, fourteen highly rated welcome centers, and a tourism industry that provides \$13.3 billion of direct economic impact and has generated over one billion dollars annually in state and local sales tax revenue for the past four years; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development has established a number of highly successful programs, including the Discover Tennessee Trails & Byways program, Tennessee's 150th Civil War commemoration, and Tennessee's Sustainable Tourism initiative; and

WHEREAS, Susan Whitaker also serves as the co-chair of Tennessee's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, as well as the Tennessee State Fair Commission, and is a member of the Smoky Mountains Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, respected by her peers, Commissioner Whitaker is the secretary of the U.S. Travel Association's Board of Directors and serves on the Executive Committee of the National Council of State Travel Directors, Travel South USA Board of Directors, the University of Tennessee's Retail Hospitality and Tourism Management Advisory Board, and the Governor's International Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, Susan Whitaker's superb dedication to her profession and the State of Tennessee is most assuredly worthy of this General Assembly's recognition and praise, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Commissioner Susan Whitaker on being named the 2013 State Tourism Director of the Year, thank her for her exemplary service to the State of Tennessee, and extend our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.